



U.S. Department of Justice

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MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ARMED ROBBERIES OF FIRST FEDERAL BANK AND UNION SAVINGS BANK IN ROCKFORD

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD K. RUMINSKI, Acting Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

JOSEPH H. POOLE, 54 (DOB: 12/29/50), was found guilty yesterday afternoon in federal court of the armed bank robbery of the First Federal Bank, 3402 North Main Street, Rockford, Illinois, on September 13, 2002, of using a firearm during that robbery, and of aiding and abetting the armed robbery of the Union Savings Bank, 203 North Alpine Road, Rockford, Illinois, on November 21, 2003. The jury's verdict followed a four-day trial.

Poole, along with **JAMES L. NOVAK**, 54 (DOB: 2/10/50), and **RALPH F. BEILKE**, 45 (DOB: 5/5/58), had been indicted on February 10, 2004. Novak was charged with the armed robbery of the Union Savings Bank and using a firearm during the robbery. Beilke had been charged with aiding and abetting Novak and Poole in the armed bank robbery of the Union Savings Bank. Both Beilke and Novak previously pleaded guilty to the bank robbery.

Poole faces a maximum potential penalty of 25 years of imprisonment on each of the two armed bank robbery charges, to be followed by a mandatory consecutive sentence of at least five years and up to life imprisonment on the charge of using a firearm during the commission of the bank robbery. He also faces a period of supervised release of 3 to 5 years following release from prison, and restitution as ordered by the court. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the FBI and the Rockford Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Joseph C. Pedersen.

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